

REMARKS

In the January 13, 2005 Final Office Action, the Examiner allowed claims 2-11, 18, and 19 and requested withdrawal of pending claims 12-17. These claims were withdrawn from consideration in response to the July 16, 2003 Restriction Requirement.

By the present Amendment, in response to the Examiner's request, Applicants propose canceling claims 12-17. Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 2-11, 18, and 19, the allowed claims, would remain pending.

Applicants respectfully request that this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 be entered by the Examiner, placing claims 2-11, 18, and 19 in condition for allowance. Applicants submit that the current Amendment does not raise new issues or necessitate the undertaking of any additional search of the art by the Examiner, since all of the elements and their relationships claimed were either earlier claimed or inherent in the claims as examined. Therefore, this Amendment should allow for immediate action by the Examiner.

Finally, Applicants submit that the entry of this Amendment would place the application in better form for appeal, should the Examiner dispute the patentability of the pending claims.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants therefore request the entry of this Amendment, the Examiner's reconsideration and reexamination of the application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

EXAMINING GROUP 3632

PATENT

Customer No. 22,852

Application No.: 10/038,834

Attorney Docket No. **04269.0315-00**

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: April 12, 2005

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